

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 21, line 21 as follows:

In one embodiment, the IXI system may include a star trigger controller slot 422 which may be operable to receive star trigger controller module 404, referenced in Figure 4. A star trigger bus ~~730~~ 720 may include a plurality of dedicated star trigger bus lines ~~730~~ 720 comprised on the IXI system backplane 410 which couple the star trigger controller slot 422 to each of the other instrumentation slots 420. The star trigger controller 404 may be operable to provide precision trigger signals over the star trigger bus lines 730 to synchronize operations of the instrumentation modules 104. In one embodiment, each of the dedicated trigger lines may be of equal length to provide matched propagation times of the trigger signals. In another embodiment, the star trigger bus ~~730~~ 720 may include differential trigger lines, in which the trigger signal is determined from the difference in signals on two star trigger lines. In one embodiment, the star trigger controller slot 422 may be operable to receive an inserted standard instrumentation module 104 when star trigger functionality is not needed.